

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049288

64

ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 EB-11 OIC-04 /110 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS: JJJOVA: MJ

3/16/73 EXT 29376

APPROVED BY USOAS: JJJOVA

SOAS: JWFORD

ARA/ CEN: LPEZZULLO

USOAS: JWFORD

ARA/ CEN: LPEZZULLO

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R 162241 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049288

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, US, CU, BL, GT, PA

SUBJECT: OASGA - CONSULTATIONS ON CUBA

REFS: ( A ) STATE 43380, ( B ) STATE 684, ( C ) GUATEMALA 1204

1. U. S. PERM MISSION TO OAS HAS BEEN PROVIDING COPIES OF SECRETARY' S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS RE CUBA ( STATE 43380) TO SELECTED OAS AMBASSADORS IN CONNECTION WITH PROCESS OF CONSULTATION THIS SUBJECT.

2. WE WERE CONCERNED AT SURPRISINGLY SOFTENED ATTITUDE OF  
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PAGE 02 STATE 049288

GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR CASTILLO ARRIOLA ( STATE 684) AND YESTERDAY HAD LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION WITH HIM TOGETHER WITH HARDLINE BOLIVIAN AND PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADORS. CASTILLO COMMENCED SESSION BY TELLING US THAT (1) CUBAN AGGRESSION HAD DIMINISHED AND CASTRO'S PRESTIGE NOW SO LOW AS NOT TO BE A THREAT, (2) ERA OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM WAS AT HAND NOT ONLY IN WORLD BUT ALSO IN REGION, (3) FEARED U. S. MIGHT SURPRISE LATIN AMERICA WITH UNILATERAL ACTION RE CUBA AND (4) INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM AND RIO TREATY BEING WEAKENED BY DEFECTIONS AND IT WAS BETTER TO REGULARIZE SITUATION, PERMITTING COUNTRIES WHO WISHED TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA TO DO SO " LEGALLY". HE AFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT GUATEMALA FOR ITS PART WOULD NOT RENEW RELATIONS. CASTILLO, HOWEVER, WAS IMPRESSED BY SECRETARY'S LETTER GIVING ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN U. S. POLICY AND JOVA'S RE-ITERATION OF FIRM STANCE U. S. WOULD MAINTAIN AT OASGA.

BOLIVIAN AND PARAGUAYAN REPS GAVE APPROPRIATE AND FULL SUPPORT. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH CASTILLO REPLYING AFFIRMATIVELY TO DIRECT QUESTION FROM JOVA THAT GUATEMALAN DELEGATION WOULD, AS IN CASE OF LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAINTAIN UNITED FRONT WITH THOSE OF US OPPOSING CHANGE RE CUBA UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAD INTERPRETED CASTILLO'S EARLIER SOFTNESS AS PERSONAL, WE WERE CONCERNED TO FIND THAT IT SEEMS TO BE SHARED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ARENALES AS DESCRIBED IN GUATEMALA'S 1204. WHILE WE BELIEVE WE HAVE STRENGTHENED CASTILLO'S STANCE, POSITION OF GUATEMALAN DELEGATION AT ASSEMBLY MAY WELL EVOLVE ALONG LINES SKETCHED BY ARENALES. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF VENEZUELA TAKES LEAD ON CUBAN QUESTION, NOT ONLY FOR HISTORICAL REASON THAT PRESENT SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED AT INITIATIVE OF VENEZUELA BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF CLOSE STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN VENEZUELAN AND GUATEMALAN DELEGATIONS HERE WHICH MUTUALLY SUPPORT EACH OTHER ON BELIZE/ GUYANA QUESTIONS. ROGER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinjw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE049288  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JJJOVA: MJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
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**Line Count:** 105  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 43380, 73 STATE 684, 73 GUATEMALA 1204  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971212  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, BL, CU, GT, PA, US, OAS  
**To:** ASUNCION  
CARACAS  
GUATEMALA  
LA PAZ  
MANAGUA  
MULTIPLE  
PANAMA

SAN JOSE  
SAN SALVADOR  
TEGUCIGALPA

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005